

Message

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Sent: 5/2/2019 8:39:00 PM
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Subject: OPPT/OPP/OCSPS Clips 5/2

OPPT/OPP/OCSPS Daily Clips

May 2, 2019

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Pesticides

CNN

The EPA says glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup, doesn't cause cancer. Others aren't so sure

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/01/health/epa-says-glyphosate-is-safe/index.html>

Holly Yan

Posted: 5:11pm, May 1, 2019

The fierce debate over whether glyphosate can cause cancer just got a big endorsement of safety from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

"EPA continues to find that there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label and that glyphosate is not a carcinogen," the agency said Tuesday.

The announcement comes after two high-profile court cases in which cancer patients claimed Roundup, a popular weedkiller containing glyphosate, caused their non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

In both cases, jurors sided with the patients and said Monsanto, the maker of Roundup, should pay them tens of millions of dollars in damages.

Fallout from those verdicts -- plus thousands of similar lawsuits against Monsanto -- have dealt a huge financial blow to Monsanto's parent company, Bayer.

Roundup cancer verdicts could cost Bayer billions

But the EPA's announcement saying glyphosate is still safe was a boon for Bayer, which has insisted the same all along.

"Bayer firmly believes that the science supports the safety of glyphosate-based herbicides, which are some of the most thoroughly studied products of their kind, and is pleased that the regulators tasked with assessing this extensive body of science continue to reach favorable conclusions," the company said.

But that doesn't mean all concerns have been alleviated.

Why the debate keeps brewing

Cancer patients who used Roundup started suing Monsanto after the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer said glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans."

"For the herbicide glyphosate, there was limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans for non-Hodgkin lymphoma," IARC said in a 2015 report.

But Monsanto said more than 800 studies have demonstrated glyphosate's safety, including studies conducted internationally.

"In fact, since IARC classified glyphosate, regulatory authorities in the United States, Europe, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Australia have publicly reaffirmed that glyphosate does not cause cancer," a spokeswoman said.

Researchers from the University of Washington conducted an analysis and found that glyphosate raises the risk of cancer to those exposed to it by 41%,

"All of the meta-analyses conducted to date, including our own, consistently report the same key finding: exposure to GBHs (glyphosate-based herbicides) are associated with an increased risk of NHL," or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, the authors wrote in a study published in the journal Mutation Research.

Timothy Litzenburg, who represented the first cancer patient to take Monsanto to trial, said the problem isn't just glyphosate, it's Roundup as a product.

"We are not alleging that our clients got cancer from glyphosate alone," he said. "Roundup contains animal fats and other ingredients that increase the carcinogenicity of the glyphosate."

He said the EPA doesn't require sufficient testing, "particularly of the formulated product," Roundup.

There also are concerns about whether Monsanto has had undue influence over regulators.

In a 2015 internal company email, a Monsanto executive wrote that an EPA official at the time offered to help stop another agency's review of glyphosate, saying "If I can kill this I should get a medal."

But a Monsanto spokeswoman said the company has never paid, given gifts to or done anything else to curry favor with anyone from the EPA.

Why glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the world

Supporters say glyphosate is critical for global farming and helps minimize carbon emissions.

"Without glyphosate, farmers would need to rely on plowing (or what is known as tillage), a weed control technique that turns over the soil," Bayer said.

"Tillage typically requires the use of heavy farm machinery, which increases fuel consumption and causes soil disruption, both of which release greenhouse gases, like CO₂, that contribute to climate change."

Disrupting the soil can also cause erosion, which would let vital nutrients be washed away with the soil, the company said.

"Glyphosate-based herbicides enable farmers to control weeds with little or no tillage, which dramatically reduces the carbon footprint and helps farmers maintain healthier soil," Bayer said.

US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue praised the EPA's announcement that glyphosate doesn't cause cancer.

"If we are going to feed 10 billion people by 2050, we are going to need all the tools at our disposal, which includes the use of glyphosate," he said.

E&E News

Alaska man convicted of spreading pesticide at homeless site

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060259181/search?keyword=EPA>

Dan Joling

Posted: May 2, 2019

An Alaska businessman who acknowledged spreading a pesticide on a public right of way used by homeless people has been convicted of reckless endangerment and polluting.

Ron Alleva, 67, president of Grubstake Auction Co. in Anchorage, also was convicted Tuesday of unauthorized pesticide distribution and misuse of a pesticide, state prosecutors said.

Alleva formerly owned property across the street from a homeless shelter, the Brother Francis Shelter, and a soup kitchen, Bean's Cafe. The pesticide was strewn less than a block away.

Alleva has been a high-profile critic of Anchorage's homeless policy. He said people attracted by the shelter and soup kitchen used drugs, defaced his property and stole from him, according to news reports.

Anchorage police and state environmental officials investigated June 7, 2018, when a white substance was found where homeless people gather around the corner from the shelter.

Assistant Attorney General Carole Holley, who prosecuted the case, said Grubstake Auction employees were recorded on video spreading the white substance.

Investigators determined the powder was Zappit 73, a product advertised as a pool cleaner.

The powder is a registered pesticide and designated as hazardous by EPA. Exposure puts people at risk of serious physical injury, including blindness, Holley said.

Immediately after the chemical was spread, Alleva told the *Anchorage Daily News* that he considered it a disinfectant. He described his action as a public service meant to mitigate a public hazard of human feces, vomit and old food that people had left.

The city fire department's hazardous material team removed 1,400 pounds of contaminated soil from the site.

Alleva and his attorney, Paul Nangle, did not immediately return messages requesting comment.

Grubstake Auction was convicted of the same counts as Alleva. Alleva and the company will be sentenced May 21.

Alleva faces a maximum of a year in jail and a \$25,000 fine on each misdemeanor count, Holley said. The company faces fines of up to \$500,000 on each count. The three environmental misdemeanors could be consolidated for sentencing, Holley said. — *Dan Joling, Associated Press*

PFAS

Bloomberg Environment

Pentagon Denies Pressuring EPA Over Water Cleanup Standards

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/pentagon-denies-pressuring-epa-over-water-cleanup-standards>

David Schultz

Posted: 6:10pm, May 1, 2019

- Defense officials tell Congress they didn't interfere in EPA's standard-setting
- Agency's recent guidelines address how to clean fluorinated chemicals out of groundwater

The Pentagon's top officials in charge of military installations denied they are interfering with the EPA's efforts to address a group of ubiquitous perfluorinated chemicals contaminating groundwater.

"There has been tremendous discussion in the media that DoD was trying to drive to a different standard than what EPA was asking for," Robert McMahon, assistant secretary of Defense for sustainment, said at a May 1 congressional hearing. "I will tell you categorically that DoD has not been."

McMahon added that the Pentagon supports the numerical threshold that the Environmental Protection Agency set for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in a draft [guidance](#) it released last week for public comment. The limit the agency ultimately sets may determine how costly it will be to clean up groundwater.

'No Discussions'

PFAS are a common ingredient in firefighting foams that have been used for years during training exercises at many military bases. The chemicals, which are linked to numerous health problems, biodegrade slowly and have seeped into groundwater supplies on and near dozens of bases.

The Pentagon has estimated that it will be liable for approximately \$2 billion in cleanup costs due to PFAS, but that number could grow depending on how stringent the EPA sets its standards for the substances in groundwater.

McMahon and other top Pentagon officials told a House Armed Services Committee that they are leaving the standard-setting up to the environmental experts.

"I've had no discussions with anyone at the EPA and I don't intend to," Alex Beehler, assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy, and environment, said.

Todd Mellon, the acting principal deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations, and environment, added that it's "ultimately EPA's call to set what those standards are. The Navy is fully on board."

Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), the top Republican on the House Armed Services' Subcommittee on Readiness, said he accepted the officials' answers and "didn't have any reason to question that."

Lamborn's district contains Fountain and Security, two civilian towns located near a military base that recently discovered very high levels of PFAS in their drinking water supplies. He told Bloomberg Environment that he's pleased with the Pentagon's progress on addressing this issue, especially its work toward looking for a replacement for PFAS.

JDSUPRA

Vermont Legislature Passes Bill That Would Impose Strict PFAS Limits

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/vermont-legislature-passes-bill-that-82610/>

Beveridge and Diamond

Posted: May 2, 2019

The Vermont State legislature has enacted a bill designed to set strict limits on the presence of perfluorinated alkylated substances (PFAS) in drinking water. The bill, S. 49, which cleared the Vermont House and Senate within

the last week and is expected to be signed into law by the governor, would require public water systems to monitor their water supplies in an effort to ensure that they do not exceed a combined limit of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for five PFAS compounds: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). The bill also directs the Secretary of Natural Resources to take additional steps to tighten controls over PFAS in Vermont water supplies.

Under the bill, if any regulated PFAS contaminants are present, individually or in combination, in a public waters system (PWS) in excess of 20 ppt, the PWS must:

- Implement treatment or other measures to reduce the regulated PFAS contaminants to levels below the advisory level (20 ppt).
- Issue a “do not drink” notice to all users of the public water system until the regulated PFAS contaminants are below the advisory level.

In addition, the bill requires the Secretary of Natural Resources to:

- Issue a final proposed rule establishing a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the five regulated PFAS compounds.
- Initiate a rulemaking process to solicit public comments regarding the potential regulation of a wider array of PFAS compounds as a class or sub-classes.
- Undertake a rulemaking process for the adoption of surface water quality standards for PFAS compounds.
- Publish a plan, subject to public review and comment, to complete a statewide investigation of potential sources of PFAS contamination.
- Submit a report regarding the management at landfills of leachate containing contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), including recommendations for treatment of CECs in leachate from landfills.

Michigan Radio NPR

State officials warn people to avoid touching PFAS foam

<https://www.michiganradio.org/post/state-officials-warn-people-avoid-touching-pfas-foam>

Emma Winowiecki, Kaye Lafond

Posted: May 1, 2019

State officials are warning Michiganders to completely avoid touching PFAS foam. Previously, they emphasized not ingesting it.

PFAS (poly and perfluoroalkyl substances) are a class of chemicals used in firefighting foam, water-proofing substances, and more. The chemicals have been found in 119 municipal water systems.

Update: Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

State officials say PFAS do not readily move through the skin. But new science from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests PFAS could be toxic at lower levels than previously thought.

Deb MacKenzie-Taylor of the MDHHS says that because of this new information, the agency is "simplifying" its message.

"It's not based on any changes in information about PFAS moving through the skin," she says. "It is that there's some new toxicity information; how much could be harmful. And, we're using that information to be public health protective."

One or two instances of skin contact aren't enough to cause an issue, but frequent, long-term exposure could be a problem, says MacKenzie-Taylor.

"The way we've evaluated is, three hours a day, five days a week for three months of the year," she says. "So anybody who would live on the lake and have their kids play on the lake every day, or many days of the week. That's where we would be concerned."

She says telling people not to touch the PFAS foam at all also reduces the chances of it being accidentally ingested.

"So, our biggest concern is still swallowing the foam," says MacKenzie-Taylor. "So either kids playing with the foam and getting it in their mouths, or getting it on their hands and then eating it afterwards."

If you do come in contact with the foam, she says you should wash it off immediately.

In an e-mail statement, MDHHS spokesman Bob Wheaton said, "our message regarding PFAS foam is not a new one. We have previously spread the message that people shouldn't ingest or touch PFAS. It's just that we are trying to simplify the message."

Original post: Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 5:11 p.m.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has previously warned people to not ingest PFAS foam. But now, MLive reports that officials have found that skin contact alone has more potential health effects than previously thought.

Read more: PFAS: Explained

The foam is formed by the churning waters in PFAS-contaminated lakes and rivers. It has been found in Alpena, Oscoda, Rockford, Cascade Township and Grayling, as well as along the Huron River.

MDHHS has yet to formally announce the new advisory. However, state toxicologists say it is being changed to simplify the message from "do not consume the foam" to "avoid the foam."

The CDC states that PFAS chemicals might cause several kinds of health problems, including affecting child development, affecting the immune system, and increasing the risk of certain cancers.

NC State University

EPA to Fund Study on Whether Treating Drinking Water Limits PFAS Exposure

<https://news.ncsu.edu/2019/05/epa-pfas-study/>

Tracey Peake

Posted: May 2, 2019

Researchers from three states currently grappling with water contaminated with poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) like GenX are joining forces to tackle one of the biggest remaining questions facing communities that have found the toxic chemicals used in stain-resistant carpets, firefighting foam, and the production of nonstick cookware lurking in their water supply.

When PFAS contaminate a drinking water source, is it enough to just treat the water people drink? Or do state and local agencies need to do more to limit residents' exposure?

A new research project set to receive \$1.96 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hopes to answer those questions. In doing so, researchers will develop data that can be used by state and local agencies to reduce exposure to the harmful chemicals in communities across the nation.

Led by Chris Higgins, a PFAS expert and professor of civil and environmental engineering at Colorado School of Mines, the research team includes scientists and engineers from North Carolina State University, Duke University, Michigan State University and the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Their efforts will focus on their three home states, each of which has communities significantly impacted by PFAS-contaminated drinking water.

In North Carolina, the source of the PFAS discovered in the Cape Fear River – the main drinking water source for the city of Wilmington – was a manufacturing plant upstream emitting PFAS in its fluorochemical production.

Among the specific questions that researchers plan to answer is to what extent PFAS accumulate in locally harvested foods like vegetables, fish and eggs, and more broadly, the relative contribution of drinking water and local foods to PFAS exposure in impacted communities. Further, the team will collect needed data to enable predictions of how quickly PFASs will migrate, particularly through soil into groundwater.

"In North Carolina, recently identified PFAS, such as GenX and Nafion byproducts, have been emitted into the air and water for decades. For some of the compounds, nothing is known about their migration through soil into groundwater and their uptake by plants and animals that serve as sources of food," said co-PI Detlef Knappe, S. James Ellen Distinguished Professor of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at NC State. "This study will allow us to develop information that will help answer important questions."

PFAS exposure studies funded by the National Institutes of Health are already underway in Colorado and North Carolina, and the new project will leverage those existing biomonitoring cohorts, led by co-PIs John Adgate, chair of ColoradoSPH's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, and Jane Hoppin, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at NC State.

“PFAS-UNITEDDD: Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substance – U.S National Investigation of Transport and Exposure from Drinking Water and Diet” is being funded through the EPA National Center for Environmental Research. The North Carolina Policy Collaboratory’s Challenge Grant fund, provided by the North Carolina General Assembly, is also contributing a \$262,500 cash match, with additional in-kind contributions coming from industry partners Jacobs, CDM Smith and others.

USA Today

Detroit Tigers minor leaguers were potentially exposed to harmful PFAS chemicals

https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/mlb/tigers/2019/05/02/detroit-tigers-minor-leaguers-potentially-exposed-harmful-pfas-chemicals/3653926002/?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=usatoday-newstopstories

Keith Matheny

Posted: 4:05pm, May 2, 2019

Detroit Tigers outfielder Nicholas Castellanos and at least 24 other current or former Tigers minor league players were potentially exposed to high levels of the emerging contaminant PFAS — nonstick chemicals that can harm human health — as they stayed in a host family’s home during their time with the West Michigan Whitecaps, a Tigers minor league affiliate.

Some of the nation’s leading toxicologists looking at PFAS don’t exactly agree on what — if any — health risks the players face from short-term PFAS exposure, which would have occurred as they drank tap water in the home or ate food cooked with the water. The Tigers’ minor leaguers stayed in the contaminated host home for five or fewer months, for part or all of the April to September season, then presumably received no further PFAS compound exposure.

PFAS compounds have been tied to increased risks for certain cancers, thyroid and liver disease, ulcerative colitis, high cholesterol and other ailments.

Tim and Jill Osbeck of Rockford, Michigan, learned in November 2017 that their residential well water was contaminated with PFAS compounds known as PFOS and PFOA, emanating from a groundwater plume leaching out of a long-closed landfill near their property. The levels in their water, at their peak, tested at more than 250 times the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s lifetime health advisory limit for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water, a level above which a lifetime of exposure could lead to health problems.

Wolverine Worldwide, a shoe factory, at one time used a gravel mining operation in the area from the 1950s and 1960s as a disposal area for its PFAS-containing sludge wastes. Wolverine Worldwide closed its tannery in 2009, and it was demolished the following year.

The Osbecks have served as a volunteer host family for West Michigan Whitecaps players since 2010, allowing players with the Tigers’ Class-A affiliate to live in their home throughout the five-month season.

A 2018 story released by the Whitecaps on their “Keep-A-Cap Program” notes that in addition to Castellanos, players hosted in the Osbecks’ home between 2010 and 2017 included:

- Former Tigers pitcher Warwick Saupold
- Former major league catcher Rob Brantly, now with the AAA Charlotte Knights
- Current Tigers minor league pitcher Kyle Funkhouser
- Current Tigers minor league outfielder Derek Hill.

Matt Manning, one of the top pitchers in the Tigers' minor league system, also was hosted by the Osbecks, Tim Osbeck told the Free Press in a March interview. Manning pitched for West Michigan in both the 2017 and 2018 seasons, and it wasn't immediately clear in which of those seasons he was in the home. After the Osbecks learned of their PFAS water contamination in November 2017, Wolverine Worldwide installed a granular activated carbon filtration system in their home that removes contaminants from water.

Castellanos, when told by the Free Press about his potential exposure, said he would do his own research into PFAS and declined further comment.

Funkhouser, interviewed after pitching Tuesday night for the Toledo Mud Hens, the Tigers' AAA affiliate, said he was not overly concerned about his potential PFAS exposure. Funkhouser said he was hosted in the Osbeck home for only about six weeks, from the start of the 2017 season until about mid-May, when he was promoted to the Tigers' High-A affiliate in Lakeland, Florida.

"It kind of is what it is," he said.

"If there was some kind of study that there was a long-term effect down the road that could happen, yeah, I'd probably be a little more cautious, nervous, see if I could reverse the effects, something like that. Be proactive."

The identities of at least 19 other potentially PFAS-exposed Whitecaps players hosted in the Osbeck home over the years were not provided to the Free Press by the family or the Whitecaps.

"We're not going to comment until we have more information," Whitecaps director of marketing and media relations Mickey Graham said Wednesday.

The Osbecks are plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit filed by PFAS-exposed families in the Rockford area against Wolverine Worldwide and the 3M Company in Minnesota, which provided PFAS-containing ScotchGard water-resistant compounds to the shoe maker.

The Osbecks, through their attorney, Esther Berezofsky, declined to comment on recent Free Press inquiries about the hosted Whitecaps players. But the couple in March discussed the family's exposure to the contamination.

"You get angry, you get very angry," Jill Osbeck said. "You feel violated, when you think your drinking water's been clean. And you think about, our kids were here, when they were younger, drinking it on a regular basis. And then our grandkids, we were feeding them their formula bottles with our water. It gets you emotionally, very much so."

Initial testing of the Osbecks' well in November 2017 showed combined levels of PFOS and PFOA at more than 8,900 parts per trillion. The EPA's lifetime health advisory level is 70 parts per trillion. Subsequent testing of the Osbecks' well water showed PFAS levels as high as 17,600 parts per trillion, Jill Osbeck said.

The research into human health effects from PFAS compounds is scant but rising. The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry notes that available studies suggest links between PFOS and PFOA and increased risks for:

- Cancer, with PFOA exposure tied to increased risks for testicular and kidney cancer
- Liver damage
- Thyroid disease
- Increased LDL or “bad” cholesterol levels
- Decreased antibody responses to vaccines
- Decreased fertility
- Developmental effects on fetuses, babies and children
- PFOA exposure has been tied to increased risk for ulcerative colitis.

Much of the human health research to date, however, has involved chemical plant employees and those living near contamination from chemical plants — people exposed to PFAS compounds on an ongoing basis over years.

“The concern with adverse health effects is strictly from chronic exposures since it takes a fairly extended time period for the blood levels to rise when the exposure begins (and fall when it ends),” Dr. David Savitz, a professor of epidemiology in the Brown University School of Public Health, said in an email.

Though several months of PFAS exposure would be enough to see a rise in the players’ blood, health effects studies are based on steady exposures over extended periods of time, he said.

“So while it’s unfortunate that they received this exposure, based on what we know, there is little reason to be concerned about adverse health effects, and given the passage of time, it seems very unlikely that there would be any persistent health concerns,” Savitz said

But Dr. Jamie DeWitt, an associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, noted that studies on laboratory animals, exposing them to high, short-term exposures of PFAS compounds, resulted in decreased weight, liver impacts and even death.

“Humans excrete these compounds much more slowly than mice,” she said. “That high of a concentration might result in someone having a much higher concentration in their body than someone who was exposed to a lower concentration for a much longer period of time.”

Informed of Savitz’s opinion, DeWitt added, “I agree with Dr. Savitz that adverse health outcomes are unlikely, but I can’t say with 100% certainty that they will not occur for a particular individual.”

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, PFAS, were used commonly from the 1950s through the 2000s, in industrial processes, aqueous firefighting foam and a host of popular consumer products, including nonstick Teflon cookware, ScotchGard stain protectors, and water-resistant Gore-Tex clothing and shoes. But the features that made the fluorinated compounds so useful also mean that they don’t break down in nature, giving them the ominous nickname “the forever chemicals.”

In an agreement with the EPA, 3M in 2000 moved to phase out its production of ScotchGard and PFOS. PFOA was phased out of U.S. manufacture by 2015.

Contact Keith Matheny: 313-222-5021 or kmatheny@freepress.com. Follow on Twitter @keithmatheny. Free Press staff writer Anthony Fenech contributed to this report.

TSCA

Chemical Watch

TSCA mercury reporting webinars scheduled

<https://chemicalwatch.com/77085/tsca-mercury-reporting-webinars-scheduled>

Staff

Posted: May 2, 2019

The US EPA has announced two webinars on the TSCA mercury inventory reporting rule.

The final reporting rule, which was put in place pursuant to 2016 amendments to TSCA, requires manufactures and importers of mercury or mercury-added products, as well as any company that intentionally uses mercury in a manufacturing process, to submit certain information.

The first webinar on 21 May will cover basic requirements, such as who must report and what information needs to be submitted.

The second webinar on 23 May will address how to use the online MER application. The agency also published a set of tools earlier this year to assist regulated parties in reporting.

Reports for 2018 activities must be filed through the online Mercury Electronic Reporting (MER) application – housed under the Central Data Exchange (CDX) – by 1 July.

The collected information will inform an updated mercury inventory, set to be released next year. An initial inventory was published in 2017 based on readily available, previously published data.

The Lautenberg Act instructs the agency to publish a new inventory every three years. This will be used to inform policy decisions and to help comply with reporting requirements under the international Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The National Law Review

EPA Launches Webinar Series on TSCA Mercury Inventory Reporting Rule

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/epa-launches-webinar-series-tsca-mercury-inventory-reporting-rule>

Lynn Bergeson, Margaret Graham

Posted: May 1, 2019

On April 30, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would be hosting two webinars for companies, organizations, and individuals required to report under the Mercury Inventory Reporting Rule of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The final rule applies to any person who manufactures (including imports) mercury or mercury-added products, or otherwise intentionally uses mercury in a manufacturing process (including processes traditionally not subject to TSCA, such as for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and pesticides).

The first webinar, *Mercury Inventory Reporting Rule*, will provide background on reporting requirements under the final rule. It will take place on **May 21, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. (EDT)**. The 2018 reporting year is from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018, and the submission deadline for the 2018 reporting year is coming up on **July 1, 2019**. Reporters are required to submit their information to EPA using the Mercury Electronic Reporting (MER) application for the first time on **July 1, 2019**, and then every three years thereafter. Based on the information collected, EPA will identify any manufacturing processes or products that intentionally add mercury and recommend actions to achieve further reductions in mercury use. Following EPA's presentation, webinar participants will have an opportunity to ask questions on reporting requirements under the final rule. Registration is available [online](#).

The second webinar, *Mercury Electronic Reporting (MER) Application*, will demonstrate how to use the online MER application through EPA's [Central Data Exchange \(CDX\)](#), which is organized as a fill-in-the-blanks form with drop-down menus and lists of check-box options. It will take place on **May 23, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. (EDT)**. Registration is available [online](#).

More information on the Mercury Inventory Reporting Rule is available in our June 25, 2018, memorandum "[EPA Publishes Final Reporting Requirements for TSCA Mercury Inventory](#)," and in our March 19, 2019, memorandum "[EPA Releases New Tools to Help Companies Meet July 1 Mercury Reporting Requirements](#)."